Dear Members of the Planning Committee,

I are writing to request a change of use for the property located at 108 The Gardens, Southwick, BN42 4AQ within the same C3 class from a three-bedroom residential dwelling C3(a) to a supported living home for adults with learning disabilities, mental health needs, and autism for up to six residents living within one property and receiving care C3(b). The home will be CQC registered to provide regulated activities, including personal care, ensuring that all support provided meets national quality and safety standards.

What Supported Living Is and the Services We Provide

A supported living home is designed to enable adults with care and support needs to live as independently as possible within the community. It provides a safe, stable environment where individuals hold their own tenancy or occupancy agreement and receive flexible, tailored support based on their individual needs. This model encourages autonomy, dignity, and personal choice — empowering people to lead their own lives with the right level of professional help.

At L & L Care Solutions, we will support adults aged 18 to 65 years old who may have mild to moderate learning disabilities, autism, or mental health conditions. Our support will include assistance with personal care, budgeting, social inclusion, healthcare access, daily living skills, and community participation. Services will be person-centred, outcome-focused, and designed around co-production with service users. Staff will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ensuring continuous, responsive support.

What a Residential Care Home Is

In contrast, a residential care home provides accommodation and full-time care for individuals who often do not have personal tenancies. The setting is more structured, and residents typically have less control over their daily life, activities, or environment. The focus in residential care is on meeting care needs within a managed service, whereas supported living prioritises independence, choice, and community integration.

National and Local Policy Drivers for Supported Living

Government policy, including the principles of Right Support, Right Care, Right Culture (CQC, 2020), as well as initiatives under the Transforming Care and Care Act 2014 frameworks, place strong emphasis on helping people live more independently in the community rather than in institutional settings. These policies promote agency, inclusion, and least restrictive care, encouraging service models where people have their own tenancies, make independent choices, and participate actively in their communities.

Supported living is also aligned with West Sussex County Council's Market Position Statement, which highlights a strategic need for less restrictive forms of accommodation and places strong emphasis on independence, inclusion, prevention, and early intervention. On page 13 of the statement, it identifies a specific shortfall in supported living provision for adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs, stressing that more community-based services are required.

Evidence of Need and Market Demand

The UK supported living sector is now valued at over £11.5 billion, providing homes and support for more than 670,000 people nationwide. Forecasts indicate a requirement for an additional 167,000 supported housing units by 2040, equating to a 33% increase on current capacity. West Sussex, particularly the coastal areas including Southwick, has been identified by local authorities as having unmet demand for 24/7 supported accommodation, especially for adults with dual diagnoses or complex mental health needs.

Our own engagement with local commissioners, health and social care professionals, and the community has reinforced the strong need for supported living in Southwick. The service will contribute directly to reducing out-of-area placements and preventing hospital admissions by offering local, consistent, person-centred support within the community.

How Our Service Meets West Sussex Priorities

L & L Care Solutions is committed to delivering services that reflect the county's Lifelong Services Market Position Statement priorities by implementing the following:

- Focus on independence and outcomes: Encouraging tenants to live purposeful, self-directed lives with opportunities for education, employment, and community participation.
- Person-centred and strengths-based approach: Each support plan will be co-produced with the individual, centred on their goals and aspirations.
- Early intervention and prevention: Supporting individuals at key life transitions, preventing escalation of needs, and promoting long-term stability.
- Workforce development: Recruiting, training, and retaining a skilled, compassionate workforce able to deliver high-quality care sustainably.
- Use of technology: Incorporating assistive technology where appropriate to enhance safety, autonomy, and connectivity.
- Integrated and co-productive working: Collaborating with local authorities, health professionals, and families to ensure seamless, holistic support.
- Focus on transitions: Supporting young adults (from age 16) to transition smoothly from children's services to independent adult living.

Community and Economic Benefits

By approving this change of use, the Council will be supporting a service that promotes social inclusion, local employment, and economic growth, while improving outcomes for some of the most vulnerable residents. Our presence will enhance community cohesion by fostering inclusive neighbourhoods where people with care needs are visible, valued, and supported to live fulfilling lives.

We have already begun positive engagement with local authorities, practitioners, and community partners who recognise the vital role of supported living in achieving national and county-level care priorities.

We therefore respectfully request the Committee's approval for change of use of 108 The Gardens, Southwick, to a supported living home. This proposal aligns with West Sussex's strategic aims and national policy direction and will provide much-needed support for adults seeking greater independence within their own community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Enala Drummond
Dr Lewis Kingsnorth
L & L Care Solutions & Property SE